COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1917.

G. GRANVILLE BUCKLEY, M.D., D.P.H.,

School Medical Officer, Medical Officer of Health,

and

Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

BURY:

Printed at the "Times" Office, Cross Street.

1918.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PARSONS LANE, BURY,

May 7th, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee,
County Borough of Bury.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children during the year ended December 31st, 1917.

The total number of children inspected during the year is slightly larger than the corresponding number for the previous year. In the continued absence, on active service, of the Assistant Medical Officer, the whole of this work has devolved on myself.

I may here call attention to the great difficulty in obtaining satisfactory treatment for certain classes of defect, e.g., enlarged tonsils and adenoids, owing to the strain on the resources of the local hospital caused by wounded soldiers.

The size of the Report has been still further reduced in accordance with the suggestions of the Board of Education.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Director of Education and his staff, the Head Teachers of the various schools, the clerical staff of the Health Department, and to the School Nurse (Miss L. H. Rishton) for the assistance they have given me, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and kind sympathy.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. GRANVILLE BUCKLEY.

County Borough of Bury.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I.—METHODS.

The methods adopted during 1917 were similar to those detailed in previous Reports, and need not be repeated here. The groups of children inspected are :—

1. "Entrants."
2. "Leavers."
3. "Special Cases."

II.—RESULTS.

Number of Visits to Schools and Departments.

Number of visits for Medical Inspection	124
" " other purposes	47
Total	171

Number of Examinations made during the year.—The total number of examinations made during 1917 was 3,732, and was made up as follows :—

Routine Inspection	"Entrants"	1025
	"Leavers" (aged 12 and 13)...	744
	"Specials"	85
Re-Inspection	New Cases	614
	Old Cases	536
Other Cases examined at Office		728
		3732

At the routine inspections 369 entrants and 67 leavers were absent.

In addition to the above, a large number of children were examined for dirty and verminous conditions, signs of infectious disease, &c.

In Table I. at the end of the Report will be found particulars as to the age and sex of the children inspected, while Table II. shows their physical condition.

There has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the children and in the condition of their clothing and footgear. Members of certain families, however, continue to come under notice owing to their dirty and verminous condition, and in one case it was necessary to prosecute the parent. Four members of the family were concerned, and, after the magistrates had twice adjourned the case (for a period of two months in each instance) the parent was fined 5s. 6d. in each case, or 22s. in all.

The attendance of parents at the inspection was as follows :—

"Leavers"	7 per cent.
"Entrants"	19 ,,

Special Cases.

When the Medical Officer visits a school for the purpose of Medical Inspection, advantage is taken of the opportunity to examine such children (not falling into either of the two classes, "Entrants" and "Leavers") as have been noticed by the teachers to be suffering from some palpable disease or defect. The total number of such children brought to the notice of the Medical Officer during the year was 85, a decrease of 16 upon the number examined in 1916. A summary of the diseases and defects discovered will be found in Table II. (page 9).

Miscellaneous Examinations.

These consist of children examined at the office and comprise such minor ailments as dirty and verminous conditions, ringworm, impetigo, &c. Saturday morning of each week is set apart for the examination of these children at the Health Office, but many children attend at other times.

During the year 728 examinations have been made of 204 children :—

	No. of Children Affected.	No. of Examinations.
Dirty and verminous conditions	121	440
Ringworm	27	111
Eye diseases and defects	11	40
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	2	7
,, ,, suspected	1	4
,, (Glands)	3	15
,, (Bone)	1	1
Diseases of Nervous System	3	7
,, Heart and Circulation	3	8
Various	29	92
Nothing found	3	3
Totals...	204	728

III.—TREATMENT.

The methods employed or available for the treatment of defects are as in former years, and have been fully detailed in previous reports. Owing to the strain on the resources of the local hospital considerable delay has arisen in obtaining treatment at that institution. There are children who have been awaiting treatment for upwards of twelve months and who are still untreated.

Table IV. shows the number of defects treated during 1917.

Tuberculosis.—The following table gives particulars of school children, suffering from Tuberculosis, who have received Institutional Treatment during the year :—

Initials.	Age.	Institution	Admitted. Still in on	Discharged.	Length of Stay.
J.C.	13	...Ainsworth Sanatorium	Jan. 1 17.	Jan. 22/17...	22 days
R.A.....	5	...Bury Infirmary.....	Jan. 20/17.	Mar. 23/17...	63 ,,
M.R. ...	10	...Grundy Convalescent Home, Blackpool	July 16/17.	Dec. 22/17...	160 ,,
S.E.W...	8	...Children's Sanatorium, Southport	July 23/17.	Sep. 3/17 ...	43 ,,
R.J.	13	...Bury Dispensary.....	Aug. 10/17.	Undischarged Dec. 31/17...	144 ,,
N.C.....	10	...Bury Dispensary.....	Aug. 10/17.	Dec. 31/17...	144 ,,
N.R.....	5	...Pendlebury Hospital	Aug. 15/17.	Sep. 14/17...	31 ,,
T.J. :.....	12	...Bury Dispensary..	Sep. 17/17.	Oct. 6/17...	20 ,,
L.F.....	11	...Children's Sanatorium; Southport	Nov. 18/17.	Undischarged Dec. 31/17...	44 ,,
T.J.	12	....Ainsworth Sanatorium	Nov. 21/17.	Dec. 31/17...	41 ,,
J.R.	8	...Bowdon Sanatorium.....	Nov. 29/17.	Dec. 31/17...	33 ,,

Diseases of the Eye.—During the year 57 children were examined by the ophthalmic surgeon. Spectacles were prescribed in 47 cases, and of these 43 have obtained glasses.

In six cases the parents were considered too poor to pay for spectacles, and the cost was defrayed, wholly or in part, by the Local Authority.

The comparatively small number of children examined for eye defects is due to the fact that the Ophthalmic Surgeon (Dr. Williamson) was called up for service and a considerable interval elapsed before his successor (Dr. Harry) was appointed.

IV.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1917 the following cases of Infectious Disease occurring among school children were notified to the Medical Officer of Health :—

Scarlet Fever	61
Diphtheria	116
Measles	725
Chicken-Pox	70

Closure of Schools.—During the year the following schools have been closed on account of the prevalence of Infectious Disease among the scholars :—

St. Chad's, Infants' Department : October 23rd to November 16th. Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

George Street, Infants' Department : November 1st to November 23rd. Measles.

All Saints', Infants' Department : November 1st to November 23rd. Measles.

George Street, Mixed Department : November 2nd to November 23rd. Measles.

St. Paul's (Bell), Infants' Department : November 12th to November 30th. Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough.

East Ward Council, Infants' Department : November 27th to December 14th. Whooping Cough.

St. Joseph's, Infants' Department : December 3rd to December 21st. Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, and Measles.

Clerke Street, Infants' Department: December 11th to December 21st. Measles.

Guardian Angels', Infants' Department: December 11th to December 21st. Measles.

Brunswick, Infants' Department: December 17th to December 21st. Measles.

Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

No necessity has arisen during the year to put the Act into force.

SUMMARY of the Work of the SCHOOL NURSE during the year 1917.

446 visits have been paid to the various school departments. This number is made up as follows:—

124 visits with the Medical Officer to assist at the routine inspection.

346 visits for other purposes—examination of children for cleanliness, &c.

1,395 visits and re-visits have been made to the homes of dirty children and children found on Medical Inspection to be suffering from some disease or defect.

Visits were paid to all the schools for the purpose of giving instruction to the children, especially the girls, in personal cleanliness, the care of the hair, &c., and 10,891 children were inspected for cleanliness.

Nine visits have been made to the Ophthalmic Surgeon's rooms to assist in the examination of children with defective vision, and in the case of the children examined by him (57) atropine has been introduced into the children's eyes by the nurse on the day previous to examination.

Note:—The following Tables, I., II., and IV., are prescribed by the Board of Education. It has not been possible this year to obtain the particulars required for Tables III. and V.

TABLE I. Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

A—"Code" Groups.

Age.	Entrants.						Intermediate Group.	Leavers.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	122	126	200	76	6	530	—	364	14	—	—	378	908
Girls	99	144	209	41	2	495	—	351	15	—	—	366	861
Totals...	221	270	409	117	8	1025	—	715	29	—	—	744	1769

B—Groups other than "Code."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-Examinations (i.e., No. of Children Re-Examined).
Boys	—	46	1150
Girls	—	39	
Totals	—	85	1150

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1917.

Defects or Disease.	Code Groups.		Specials.	
	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
1	2.	3.	4.	5.
Malnutrition	..	66	..	..
Uncleanliness: Head	114	..	..	..
Body...	25	..	..	..
Skin: Ringworm, head...	1	..	..	..
Ringworm, body	1	..	1	..
Scabies	10	..	..	..
Impetigo	11	..	3	..
Other disease...	3	..	2	..
Eye: Defective Vision and Squint	153	..	35	..
External eye disease...	15	..	1	..
Ear: Defective hearing...	27	..	5	..
Ear disease	41	..	1	..
Teeth: Dental disease...	385	..	..	..
Nose and Throat: Enlarged Tonsils...	63	137	3	1
Adenoids...	32	9	9	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	25	8	3	..
Defective speech...	..	..	..	1
Heart and Circulation: Heart disease, organic ...	30	..	1	..
Heart disease, functional	3	..	..	..
Anæmia...	5	7	1	..
Lungs: Pulmonary tuberculosis—Definite	2	..	..	..
Suspected ...	2	3	..	..
Chronic bronchitis...	13	..	1	..
Other disease	..	..	..	..
Nervous System: Epilepsy...	1	..	..	..
Chorea...	1	..	1	..
Other disease	4	..	..	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Glands...	2	1	..	..
Bones and Joints	..	..	..	..
Other forms	..	..	..	..
Rickets	1	10	..	..
Deformities...	13	..	1	..
Other defects or diseases	16	14	4	3

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1917.

Condition.	No. of Defects for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unch'ng'd		
Clothing	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Footgear	..		..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cleanliness of Head	113	114	227	69	137	105	32	..	21	86·71
Cleanliness of Body	40	25	65	21	38	34	2	2	6	86·36
Nutrition	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nose and Throat	172	107	279	64	167	114	48	5	48	77·67
External Eye Disease	59	15	74	21	50	26	23	1	3	94·34
Ear Disease	14	42	56	19	30	15	6	9	10	81·08
Teeth	210	388	598	212	60	..	60	..	326	15·54
Heart and Circulation	35	40	75	26	47	7	32	8	2	95·94
Lungs	11	18	29	7	18	10	5	3	4	81·82
Nervous System	..	8	8	3	4	2	1	1	1	80·00
Skin	5	26	31	10	20	12	5	3	1	95·24
Rickets	..		..	..	..	.	..	.	..	
Deformities	2	14	16	5	9	5	2	2	2	81·81
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4	1	3	1	2	..	..	100·00
Speech	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mental Condition	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vision and Squint	77	188	265	62	157	128	15	14	46	77·34
Hearing	12	32	44	21	12	8	3	1	11	52·18
Miscellaneous	3	20	23	8	11	7	2	2	4	73·33
Total	755	1039	1794	549	763	474	238	51	485	60·32

were prosecuted and convictions obtained—four of £10 each, two of £15 each, and one of £50, the vendor in the latter case having been previously convicted for a similar offence.

Two of the defendants appealed against their convictions, but their appeals were dismissed, although the penalties were reduced in one case from £10 to 20/-, and in the other from £50 to £20.

No preservatives were found in any of the samples of milk.

The samples of margarine were of good quality, containing boric acid as a preservative, but the samples of butter were very rancid and unpalatable and contained boric acid not exceeding 0.50 per cent. The fats present were, however, genuine butter fats.

The samples examined called for no comment.

The percentage of adulteration is equal to 8 per cent.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

THOS. J. HUTCHINSON, F.I.C.,

Borough Analyst, County Borough of Bury.